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QUESTION OF AGING

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/67 of 8 December 1989, in which the Assembly called upon Member States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to assist the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna in elaborating for the consideration of the Assembly at its forty-fifth session a detailed global programme of activities for 1992 on the basis of the draft programme endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1989/50 of 24 May 1990.
2. General Assembly resolution 44/67 also addressed the question of establishing a United Nations system-wide medium-term plan on aging, as well as aging-related facets of development co-operation, training, advancement of women, refugees, public information, population, and statistics.
3. Since all of the above-mentioned facets call for actions that fall within the ambit of a global programme on aging, they have been integrated into the present report on the action programme on aging for 1992 and beyond.
4. The purpose of the action programme on aging for 1992 and beyond is to serve as a catalyst for further implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Plan's adoption. Its structure is broad, flexible, and open-ended. It suggests many individual or collaborative activities at the local, national, regional and international levels.
5. Several international networks on aging participated in preparing the proposed action programme, including the Government-appointed national mechanisms on aging, the research-oriented international network on aging, the advocacy-oriented non-governmental committees on aging in New York and Vienna, and the United Nations bodies and agencies concerned. Selected experts, including elderly persons, also made valuable contributions.
6. Implementation of the action programme will be promoted mainly through the exchange of information within and between global networks. As extrabudgetary resources become available, expert and consultative meetings will be convened.
7. It is envisaged that, upon its review by the General Assembly, the action programme, which is mainly organizational, could be disseminated to key participants throughout the world, together with the International Plan of Action on Aging. The Plan, as well as the new edition of the World Aging Situation to be issued in 1991, provide a conceptual basis for the activities briefly delineated in the action programme.

II. AGING POPULATION

8. One million people now turn age 60 each month, and over a hundred thousand turn age 80 - numbers that have been steadily rising over the past decades and that are projected to be greater in the years to come. Increasing numbers and proportions of the aging, brought about by improved living conditions and fertility declines, are changing the age-structure of societies. Throughout all known history, population structures resembled a pyramid with few aged at the top and many youth at the base; now the picture is beginning to take the shape of a cylinder with the numbers and proportions of the old increasing. It is an historic change. It requires life-style adjustments for individuals, families, neighbourhoods, countries and regions. Essential features of the new life style include: life-long education, barrier-free housing and environments, healthy living, flexible work arrangements, changing investment patterns, innovative retirement practices and increasing community solidarity. Many societies have already replaced, and others will soon need to replace an underlying assumption of youth-orientation with maturity-orientation. A paradigm has changed: humanity is coming of age.

9. Anticipating this demographic "coming of age", the General Assembly, in its resolution 37/51 of 3 December 1982, endorsed the International Plan of Action on Aging. The ultimate objective of the Plan of Action is the effective adjustment of societies to the aging of populations; interim objectives include capacity and institutional development, especially in developing countries where populations are aging rapidly. Since its adoption in 1982, the Plan of Action has been unevenly implemented across the world: levels of awareness, infrastructure and programme implementation vary greatly. The year 1992 - the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Plan of Action on Aging - offers an opportunity to review progress, exchange experiences and generate a new momentum for a yet more effective response to aging in the decade ahead.

10. The aging of individuals is frequently approached as a humanitarian issue, ^{1/} and the aging of populations as a developmental one. The action programme takes the view that these concepts are interrelated in that active and contributing older persons constitute a development force; whereas, relegated to dependent roles, they would be a drain on development. The action programme's main concern is to support and promote the integration of the elderly in the economic, social and cultural life of family and community. How this integration is achieved and maintained will vary according to national conditions.

11. Some challenges posed by aging include:

- (a) Identifying methods to combat age stereotyping and negative attitudes towards the elderly;
- (b) Dealing with age discrimination and changing work opportunities in old age;
- (c) Choosing among alternative forms of collective old-age income security schemes;

(d) Promoting healthy aging and affordable community-integrated social and health-care systems, including for the disabled elderly;

(e) Achieving a suitable mix of adapted general-purpose dwellings and of age-specific residences as needed at different times in support of maximum independent daily living and community integration;

(f) Ensuring community integration in old age by developing an appropriate mix of self-help opportunities, family and community support, and government assistance;

(g) Responding to the disadvantaged socio-economic position of elderly women, as well as of elderly refugees and migrants;

(h) Developing an infrastructure of trained professionals, advocates, and organizations focusing on the aging situation; improving co-operation of the formal and informal sectors and integrating aging into the overall development process;

(i) Anticipating possible future costs of a growing aging population in light of other claims on public spending, such as upgrading basic infrastructures, cleaning up the environment, servicing the national debt and buying ever-more costly arms.

12. The above list is not exhaustive, but is indicative of issues that will be considered in the second edition of the World Aging Situation, now under preparation at the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna for publication in 1991.

13. The Action Programme on Aging for 1992 and Beyond does not enter into a discussion of the complexities of aging. Nor does it attempt to be comprehensive in the manner of the first edition of the World Aging Situation: Strategies and Policies 2/ and the International Plan of Action on Aging. It endeavours to stimulate some activities at the global, national and local levels that could, at the present time, promote a more widespread and co-operative approach to aging. It proposes a process of target selection during 1991 and 1992 at the global and national levels for identifying a limited set of concrete measures that could provide a leading edge to activities on aging in the 1990s. It includes a draft calendar of events on aging in 1991-1992 to facilitate co-operation. It gives implicit recognition to aging as both an issue of specialized professional interest and a process requiring adjustments in daily life by individuals, families and neighbourhoods. The global, national and local agendas that comprise the core of the action programme are not identical in structure, but features of one could be adapted to the others. The action programme is meant to stimulate action in an open-ended and flexible manner, cognizant of the diversity within and between nations.

14. A range of participants is envisaged for the action programme. These may be subsumed in the following frequently inter-acting categories: the Governments of the States Members of the United Nations and other Governments; diverse local, national, regional, and international, governmental and non-governmental organizations; individuals, families and informal groups.

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15. Participants with special expertise on aging may wish to identify ways for sharing their expertise, within their mandates and available resources, with countries requiring it.

16. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna is the global lead entity for the action programme and it was prepared the draft action programme in close consultation with a broad spectrum of concerned national, regional and international entities and will promote and co-ordinate its implementation. Special sectoral interests, such as health maintenance, income security, education, rural development, etc. will be supported by the concerned United Nations specialized agencies and bodies listed in annex II to the present report.

III. GLOBAL AGENDA ON AGING IN THE 1990s

17. The global agenda will aim primarily in supporting national and local activities. It will comprise two main elements: selection of targets and formulation of a calendar of events. It will delineate the main thrust of enabling activities that have been given high priority in the United Nations programme on aging in recent years: development co-operation and training.

A. Selecting global targets for 2001

18. Nearly 10 years of experience in implementing the International Plan of Action on Aging points to a need for a set of tangible targets on aging. Focusing energies on selected targets, to be achieved within a timeframe, could be expected to both achieve concrete results and generate a momentum that would stimulate activities on the broader spectrum of the Plan of Action.

19. On the basis of contributions from international organizations, as well as national mechanisms on aging, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna will develop a draft set of global targets for the year 2001; two different sets of targets could be submitted to it: one set relating to the contributor's own specific targets, and another set for reflection in a composite set of global targets to be reached co-operatively by the year 2001. Using the networking mode and, as extrabudgetary resources become available, expert group and consultative meetings, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs will finalize a set of global targets for the consideration of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session in 1992.

B. Global calendar of events on aging

20. As a means of recording activities, promoting co-operation, and stimulating a cross-fertilization of ideas, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna will open a calendar of events on aging for the years 1991-1992. A draft global calendar of events on aging, based upon information currently available to the Secretariat, appears as annex I to the present report.

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21. International organizations may wish to inform the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of their activities in support of the action programme for inclusion in the global calendar of events on aging. They may, for example, wish to:

(a) Incorporate aging as a priority theme in their plans and programmes, and adopt resolutions regarding concrete measures to be taken;

(b) Issue statements in the name of heads of organizations or other senior officials during 1992 on "Humanity's coming of age";

(c) Publish and exchange research bulletins, articles and reports on aging during 1991 and 1992;

(d) Organize special meetings, seminars and lectures on aging in 1991 and 1992;

(e) Promote international cultural and educational exhibits, video, radio and television programmes - highlighting inter-generational, inter-sectoral and international co-operation on the question of aging;

(f) Link the question of aging with special events and days in 1992;

(g) Support Governments in developing national programmes on aging and in selecting and reaching national targets on aging by the year 2001;

(h) Assist the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in identifying draft global targets on aging to be reached by the year 2001.

22. If found useful, the calendar could be maintained throughout the 1990s. Three dates during the decade 1992-2001 may be useful for medium-term planning and co-ordination; these are:

(a) 1993, during which the Economic and Social Council is scheduled to conduct the third quadrennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging, and the International Association of Gerontology to convene its XV International Congress;

(b) 1997, during which the fourth quadrennial review as well as the XVI International Association of Gerontology Congress are scheduled to take place, and the third edition of the World Aging Situation to be published;

(c) 2001, during which the fifth quadrennial review and the XVII International Association of Gerontology Congress are scheduled to take place.

23. Several hundred international organizations are concerned directly or indirectly with aging, as illustrated by the Handbook of Organizations Active in the Field of Aging, 3/ as well as some 25 United Nations bodies and specialized agencies (listed in annex II). Co-ordination of United Nations system-wide activities is achieved through networking, with the Centre for Social Development

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and Humanitarian Affairs at the United Nations Office at Vienna serving as focal point, and ad hoc inter-agency meetings on aging. Long-term co-ordination of activities on aging is being sought through establishment of a United Nations system-wide medium-term plan on aging. The matter will be discussed at the ad hoc inter-agency meeting on aging scheduled to take place at Vienna in February 1991.

24. In view of the broad scope of the activities planned for 1992 and beyond, Governments, foundations, research institutes and non-governmental organizations may wish to provide staff or extrabudgetary support to the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs as lead agency for the action programme. Activities requiring such support include:

(a) Hosting regional and international consultations in 1991 and 1992 on the selection of global targets on aging to be reached by the year 2001;

(b) Information exchange including:

(i) Maintaining a global calendar of events on aging;

(ii) Launching an essay and poster competition;

(iii) Establishing a databank on policy-oriented research on aging in developing countries, and cross-country research;

(iv) Establishing a databank on organizations and institutes concerned with aging throughout the world, based on existing directories;

(c) Launching an international senior fellows programme to draw upon the talents and skills of seniors for short-term development projects, ranging from three to six months;

(d) Developing an international seniors exchange programme, promoting skills exchange and inter-cultural understanding;

(e) Establishing a technical co-operation network that would bridge the gap between international funding agencies and local self-help groups that include the aging.

C. Enabling factors: development co-operation and training

25. Development co-operation and training have been given high priority in recent years in the United Nations programme on aging. They are seen as enabling factors of special importance to developing countries in their efforts to achieve self-reliance in aging. As such, they are of paramount importance in the action programme.

26. Key United Nations institutions supporting development co-operation in the field of aging include the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat, and

the Trust Fund for Aging. The Department of Technical Co-operation for Development will support, or recently has supported, advisory missions on aging to the Dominican Republic, Argentina, El Salvador, Guinea and Togo. UNFPA is supporting a range of projects on aging throughout the United Nations system, including research under implementation by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of a project entitled "Developmental implications of demographic change: global population aging". Both the Department and the Fund will continue their support during the 1990s.

27. The Trust Fund for Aging, which was initially established to support the World Assembly on Aging in 1982, became operational in 1983, from which date it has disbursed over \$US 970,000 for 38 projects. The supported projects ranged from small-scale income-generation by the elderly, to policy-oriented research and training for Governments. Governments and non-governmental organizations have both contributed to and received support from the Fund for projects on aging. Contributions to the Fund have declined since 1982. The decline in contributions juxtaposed against the steady rise in the aging population is not encouraging (see tables 1 and 2 below), but there are indications that contributions will increase on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the World Assembly on Aging. The Fund's unique focus on developing country needs, and the experience it has gained since 1983, makes it an important tool in promoting implementation of the Plan of Action in the decade ahead.

28. Plans are being finalized to establish, by 1991, an independent world foundation on aging under the patronage of the United Nations, to be called the Banyan Foundation. The foundation's main goal would be to empower the elderly in all world regions to maintain maximum independence and the ability to contribute to society in the context of the International Plan of Action. To that effect, the foundation will serve to secure or broker funds from corporations, foundations, charitable bodies, individuals, Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and allocate them for specific projects and programmes. Details now being finalized relate to the foundation's location, constitution and by-laws, initial seed capital, Board of Directors, Council of Patrons, staff, national affiliates, and relationship with the United Nations.

29. The proposed foundation, largely the initiative of a few key non-governmental organizations, testifies to the imaginative, flexible and effective role of the non-governmental community in development co-operation. Many individual organizations have been active in development co-operation. Too numerous to record in full, some illustrative activities are included in annex I. To better co-ordinate the expertise, experience and outreach of the non-governmental community, establishment of a technical co-operation network of the concerned organizations is being considered.

30. Discussions are under way for the establishment of training institutes on aging in Argentina, Yugoslavia and Central America and the Caribbean. These, like the International Institute on Aging in Malta, will be established in close co-operation with the United Nations on the basis of resolution 1987/41 of the Economic and Social Council. Having been established in October 1987, the Institute in Malta has made rapid progress. Its activities have included

Table 1. Trust Fund for Aging: income/expenditure
(January 1980-December 1989)

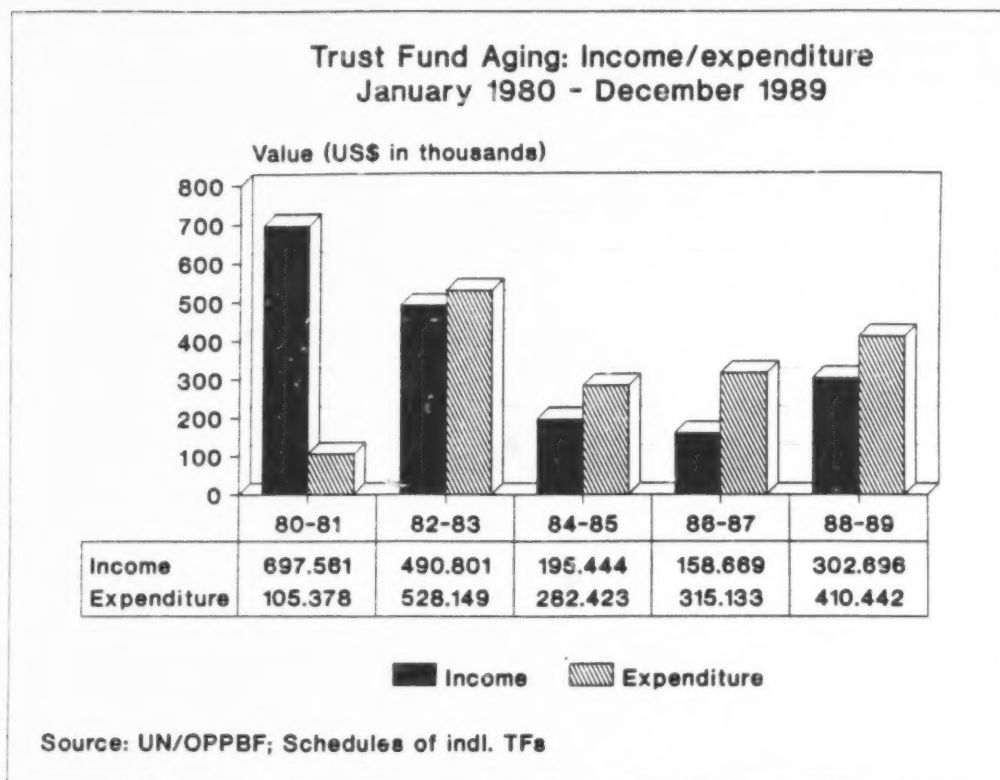
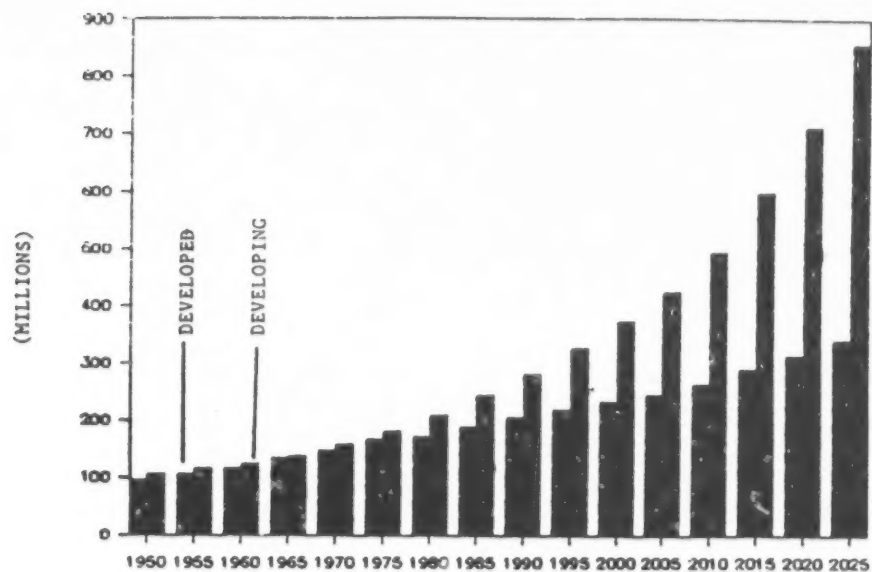


Table 2. Population aged 60 and over: developed and developing regions, 1950-2025



curriculum development, training courses, a global survey on training, and establishment of an information network. Training courses are planned for 1990 and 1991, with 15 participants from developing countries in each (see annex I); and in situ training courses are being organized in developing countries. The Institute's training as well as related research, advisory, documentation and information activities are assisted by the Government, but financed mainly through voluntary contributions. Its pioneering work in training will greatly benefit the launching of similar institutes on aging being considered at this time.

IV. NATIONAL AGENDA ON AGING IN THE 1990s

31. There is a growing body of data, experience and infrastructure on aging in many countries, and signs of a growing interest in all. Since 1982, the International Plan of Action on Aging has been translated into many national languages, national plans have been adopted, national aging situations described, and national mechanisms on aging established - to greater and lesser degrees. These activities provide a useful base for the selection of national priorities on aging for the 1990s, or for the selection of a set of feasible targets to be reached by the year 2001.

32. The different conditions and concerns of developed and developing countries caution against uniform prescriptions, yet encourage an expansion of dialogue so that effective adjustments to societal and individual aging in one place may inspire or instruct similar achievements elsewhere. National initiatives reported to the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna will be included in the global calendar of events on aging (see annex I).

33. Two themes are suggested below for the national agenda: the selection of a set of priorities or targets to be reached in the decade ahead, and a series of activities for celebrating 1992, the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Aging.

A. Selecting national targets for 2001

34. The process of target selection may take place independently within many national organizations or in a unified manner for the country as a whole. The selection process should encompass different interest groups, involving the groups concerned in identifying feasible goals and in the means of reaching them, and can be expected to motivate innate self-help capabilities.

35. A cross-section of professional and interest groups that could be invited to select their own targets on aging, or contribute to a set of national targets on aging for the year 2001, may include: national planning ministries, and ministries of labour, health, welfare, and housing; research, training and educational institutions; religious organizations; development and philanthropic foundations; town and community collectives and groups; families; associations of women, disabled persons and youth; environmental groups; trade unions and employers

associations; businesses and the media. Entities centrally concerned with aging include, for example, gerontological societies, universities of the third age, pensioners organizations, and senior executive associations.

36. Identifying the means of reaching selected targets will be an important consideration, and will encompass national resource mobilization, budgetary choices, infrastructures for an aging society and the availability of trained personnel. Target setting will help to identify what is feasible and how it can be done. It may also clarify the national direction and emphasis in interrelated matters of some complexity, such as determining a suitable balance in the availability of:

- (a) Pensions and work opportunities for the aging;
- (b) Community and institutional care for the frail old;
- (c) Individual and family services;
- (d) Consumer choices and centralized service provision;
- (e) Formal and informal support systems;

(f) New research opportunities and better use of existing studies and statistics.

37. Overall co-ordination of consultations on target-setting could be provided by the government-appointed national mechanisms on aging. Currently, some 100 Governments have established national mechanisms on aging, sometimes called committees, councils, focal points, or assemblies. Details are available from the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna in the publication entitled Profiles of National Mechanisms on Aging, to be issued shortly. Many mechanisms have a broad and flexible membership consisting of representatives of ministries, the elderly, the media, the business sector, volunteers, the legal profession; and education, social services, health, research and training institutes.

38. To assist in the process of target setting, the priorities and recommendations for action identified in the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging (see Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/50 of 24 May 1989, annex I) may be consulted, together with the conclusions and recommendations of various expert and consultative meetings held in recent times.

B. Anniversary programme for 1992

39. The year 1992, marking the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Aging, presents an ideal occasion for broadening the involvement of individuals, organizations and institutions in questions of aging. An anniversary programme may draw upon the activities listed in the local agenda (see sect. IV below).

40. Preliminary steps in organizing an anniversary programme could include the following: (a) appointing a lead agency; (b) selecting a limited number of feasible projects; (c) drawing up a schema of objectives, target audiences, possible resources and tasks to be done, by whom, and when; and (d) forming committees and sub-committees to organize events and specific tasks.

41. Publicity and promotion are especially important. Media coverage can promote awareness of seniors' issues and positive attitudes towards that age group. Promotion can help recruit volunteers, attract a large crowd, raise funds and other resources, and generally let people know that seniors are an active force in the community. A variety of promotional tools are available and should be chosen in the context of each country and community's resources and culture.

42. Special dates could be marked by intergenerational debates, talks, walkathons and events. These could be organized in schools, universities, community centres, and on local radio or television stations - and given press coverage. United Nations days, as well as other events widely observed, provide the occasion and theme for intergenerational exchanges; for example: World Religion Day (third Sunday of January); International Women's Day (8 March); World Home Economics Day (20 March); World Health Day (7 April); World Environment Day (5 June); International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (26 June); International Day of Peace (third Tuesday of September); United Nations Day (24 October); International Week of Science and Peace (week of 11 November); International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development (5 December); Human Rights Day (10 December).

43. A national day, week or month on aging could focus on the following themes: (a) creating awareness of the aging of populations among all age groups and sectors; (b) expanding and making known the choices available to seniors for continuing personal development, including occupational, psychological, social, cultural and spiritual; (c) celebrating the contributions that seniors have made to national life and honouring outstanding seniors in the arts, sciences, sports and community development; (d) giving recognition to outstanding family and community age-integrated activities; (e) promoting inter-sectoral co-operation in care strategies for the frail elderly.

44. Other anniversary activities are suggested as follows:

(a) A national calendar of events on aging for 1991-1992 could be opened as a means of supporting information exchange, collaboration on research and other projects, and sent to the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna for reflection in the global calendar of events and the Bulletin on Aging;

(b) A senior of the year award could be instituted for outstanding contribution to community or country. Nominations could be solicited through the media, community organizations, seniors' clubs and residences, the municipality, volunteer groups, and so on. The senior chosen could then play a key role in the anniversary programme for 1992;

(c) A drawing, photographic, art, or writing competition could be launched on the themes of grand-parenthood, inter-generational family life, senior enterprise, the challenges and triumphs of aging, life review, and so on. Entries could be judged by a panel of local photographers, artists, writers, and seniors and all outstanding entries exhibited;

(d) Youth assemblies on aging could be organized in schools in which participants develop plans of action for life after 60 for their grandparents (today), their parents (in the year 2020) and for themselves (in 2040). They should be encouraged to anticipate future environments, technologies, community structures and levels of well-being;

(e) Seniors sports could be organized to take place at the same time as other national sports;

(f) "Ambassadors" for seniors could be invited from among well known personalities to advocate on behalf of the aging and inter-generational solidarity.

V. LOCAL AGENDA ON AGING IN THE 1990s

45. The present section of the report outlines initiatives that could be taken at the local level. Many could be considered for the 1992 national anniversary programme. Most lend themselves to co-operation of the formal and informal sectors, and support the view that aging is not only a subject of specialized concern but a process affecting daily living, requiring responses by individual, family and neighbourhood. Activities are thus suggested for neighbourhoods, families and individuals; the business sector; schools and colleges; and the media.

A. Neighbourhoods, families and individuals

46. Local government, town and community leaders, families and individuals may wish, as appropriate, to:

(a) Integrate the needs of the elderly in urban and community planning, including for housing, transport, and health and social services, bearing in mind the diversity of the elderly and giving special attention to the needs of migrants and refugees;

(b) Draft local plans of action on aging in co-operation with representatives of the elderly, and support establishment of community-based organizations on aging including "1992 committees" to spearhead the anniversary year activities;

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(c) Establish senior advisory groups ("silver legislatures"), comprising seniors who advise local Government on community matters, especially those concerning aging;

(d) Open a seniors' bureau to establish and maintain a directory of seniors according to talent and expertise, and a parallel directory of paid and unpaid opportunities in community development;

(e) Arrange a lecture series for and by seniors, for example by: a family educator on mutual care-giving in the family; an agriculturalist on improving farming or gardening; an accountant on financial planning; a physiotherapist on physical exercise; a doctor on nutrition; a pharmacist on drugs; a police officer on safety and security, and a lawyer on making wills and on recourse in case of abuse;

(f) Open community training-cum-recreational centres, in co-operation with local enterprises, which would serve older and other citizens currently under-employed and wishing to improve their entitlements and capabilities;

(g) Commission a history of the district, by a group of seniors and, for example, girl and boy scouts or other citizens. Information could be collected from libraries, local historical societies, individuals, museums and historic sites;

(h) Organize sports tournaments, encompassing all age groups and, where appropriate, fully integrated across generations;

(i) Support family integration and solidarity through dialogue in schools, community forums, and local media on: inter-generational exchanges, family consultation, equitable task-sharing within the family, especially care-giving, causes and remedies of abuse of the elderly in the family or domestic setting;

(j) Introduce surrogate kinship programmes of families or community groups for the aging living alone, as an aid to their remaining in the community;

(k) Establish comprehensive community care systems spanning the formal and informal sectors;

(l) Integrate residential homes and day centres in the wider community, and involve residents and their families in planning and running services;

(m) Introduce or support practices that ensure dignity in death, support in bereavement, and respect for the wishes of the aging in these regards.

B. The business sector

47. Where not already established, the business sector and professional societies and individuals may wish to:

(a) Establish employment agencies to identify and promote suitable work opportunities and environments for seniors in consultation with seniors;

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(b) Expand life-long on-the-job training and retraining opportunities for new technologies, community service, and income-security in old age;

(c) Support senior enterprises and co-operatives in their initial stages including, for example, small-scale print shops, laundries, farms, mills, bakeries and so on. These could be established in or close to residential homes for the aging;

(d) Examine whether expanding work opportunities for seniors in the neighbourhood implies contracting work opportunities for the young, and whether both age groups could co-operate on joint projects;

(e) Organize a seniors' trade show for seniors who are plumbers, weavers, herbalists, farmers, nurses, electricians, accountants, carpenters, photographers and artists;

(f) Issue a seniors' directory listing seniors willing to share expertise and support local, national and international development efforts;

(g) Prepare a manual on income-generating activities by seniors to which end local business clubs and organizations may provide useful advice, models and practical support;

(h) Publish a handbook on fund-raising for local self-help or service organizations to enable them to tap financial backing from different sources;

(i) Request community leaders to issue business awards to enterprises that have special rates for seniors, give generously to seniors' organizations, or make other significant contributions to seniors' well-being;

(j) Support employees who are care-givers through introducing flexible work hours, and integrated day-care centres for dependants of all ages, possibly in co-operation with the local Government and the voluntary service sector;

(k) Introduce flexible retirement ages and practices and organize pre-retirement consultations;

(l) Design and market a wider and more attractive range of health-promoting goods and services for all ages, which would especially benefit the aging.

C. Schools and colleges

48. Surveys, youth assemblies on aging and other activities appropriate for schools and colleges are listed elsewhere in this action programme. Additionally, universities, open universities, Universities of the Third Age, community colleges, junior and high schools may wish, as appropriate, to:

(a) Expand education for seniors by (i) opening to them a number of places in regular courses at reduced rates or free of charge, (ii) organizing special courses

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for seniors on themes directly relating to aging, such as health maintenance, income security and changing images of the elderly;

(b) Arrange lectures and workshops for journalists, advertisers, architects, employers, social and health care-givers, family care-givers, volunteers, and members of local government on the implications of an aging population and options in responding to it;

(c) Conduct surveys, in co-operation with seniors for use in developing local plans and programmes on aging, including, for example, a survey of training needs of the aging, their families and socio-economic and political institutions. A parallel survey could be conducted on the preparedness of adult and other educational institutions to provide the required training;

(d) Write and perform an oral history play where, first, a group of students make tape-recordings of seniors talking about their lives and then write a play on the basis of the recordings, in which seniors would play themselves as they are today and youth would play the seniors as they were during the events recorded;

(e) Launch a poster and/or essay competition offering prizes for the poster or essay that best depicts a theme related to inter-generational co-operation. Prizes could be donated by local business or shops; winning posters could be exhibited, and the best essays published or broadcast by the local media;

(f) Establish gerontology as a core subject for students of social sciences, journalism, education, as well as nursing and medicine where geriatrics may also be made a core subject;

(g) Organize exchanges between retired teachers in developed and developing countries to support literacy as well as cultural understanding and enrichment.

D. The media

49. A major role for the media is envisaged in the anniversary programme for 1992 outlined above. It can influence attitudes, capabilities, and opportunities. Local or national newspapers, radios, television stations, graphic design firms, advertisers or public relations companies could all participate. They may, for example, wish to:

(a) Explain population aging, its impact on all generations and sectors of society;

(b) Show diversity in old age based on seniors' life-long experiences, contributions to society, views on important events, creativity, organizational skills, self-reliance, and dignity and courage in facing poverty, disease and death;

(c) Promote inter-generational dialogue in families and neighbourhoods on such themes as environmental protection, drug abuse control and conflict resolution;

(d) Interview formal and informal care-givers, including family care-givers, both men and women, and identify their support needs; draw attention to causes and remedies of elder abuse in the family or institutional setting;

(e) Acknowledge seniors as a resource for community development, for example, by opening a seniors column in the local paper or radio; .

(g) Support establishment of a seniors journal by donating paper and copying at a reduced rate and by providing initial editorial, marketing and managerial training.

Notes

1/ For statistical purposes, the United Nations uses the age 60 and over to denote the aging population which, in the Action Programme, is variously designated as "the aging", "seniors" or the "elderly".

2/ United Nations sales publication No. E.85.IV.5.

3/ United Nations, New York, 1988 (ST/CSDHA/1).

ANNEX I

Draft global calendar of events on aging, 1991-1992

1. Numerous events on aging scheduled for 1991 and 1992 are listed below. The list is intended to facilitate co-operation and eliminate unnecessary duplication. It will be maintained and expanded during 1991 and 1992 and, if found useful, will be continued throughout the 1990s. The co-ordinator or lead agency, and some co-operating entities, for each event are noted in parentheses. Not all events have been finalized and thus may be changed. Changes and additions should be sent to the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna.

2. The project report sheet that appears at the end of the calendar (see appendix) may be used to inform the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of events to be included in the updated versions.

3. The following is a list of activities that will take place within 1991 or 1992, while paragraph 4 below lists activities spanning more than one year:

(a) 1991: Inter-agency Meeting on Aging, which will examine, inter alia, target selection, and formulation of a United Nations system-wide medium-term plan on aging (the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, together with concerned United Nations agencies and bodies, potentially all those listed in annex II);

(b) 1991: target date for establishment of the Banyan Foundation (eminent persons, organizations in co-operation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs);

(c) 1991: publication of Profiles of National Mechanisms on Aging, including some 100 country addresses (the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs);

(d) 1991: publication of Technical Guidelines on the Participation of the Elderly in Development (the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs);

(e) 1991: publication of the second edition of the World Aging Situation, focusing on challenges to society and planners (the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs);

(f) 1991: publication of report of international conference on the aging family (held at Kitakyushu, Japan, from 15 to 19 October 1990 by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs);

(g) 1991: seminar on older women (American Association of Retired Persons in co-operation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs);

(h) 1991: symposium on the independence, position and image of seniors in society (International Federation of Associations of the Elderly (FIAPA));

(i) 1991: XIII International Congress on "The older generation in Europe: political, economic and socio-cultural potential, today and tomorrow" at Davos, Switzerland, from 11 to 14 June (European Federation for the Welfare of the Elderly (EURAG));

(j) 1991: publication of new journal on development education and aging (HelpAge International);

(k) 1991: short-term international training courses on gerontology, geriatrics, and income security for the elderly in developing countries; a long-term diploma course in gerontology, and in situ training courses in developing countries (International Institute on Aging (INIA), Malta);

(l) 1991: publication of Bold, a new quarterly gerontological bulletin (INIA, Malta);

(m) 1991: publication of 16 country monographs on population aging (INIA, Malta, and Committee for International Co-operation in National Research on Demography (CICRED));

(n) 1991: first intergovernmental and/or expert-group meetings (contingent upon availability of resources) on selecting global targets to be reached by the year 2001, for the consideration of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session in 1992 (the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, in co-operation with host country or organization);

(o) 1992: second intergovernmental and/or expert-group meeting (contingent upon availability of resources) on selecting global targets to be reached by the year 2001 (the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, in co-operation with host country or organization);

(p) 1992: a global survey on aging in 1992 in preparation for the third quadrennial review of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging, which the Economic and Social Council will make in 1993 (the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs);

(q) 1992: United Nations Demographic Yearbook: special supplement on aging and the elderly population (Statistical Office of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs);

(r) 1992: a wide range of public information activities (Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat in co-operation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs);

(s) 1992: commemorative stamps on aging, under consideration (United Nations Postal Administration);

(t) 1992: handbook of model programmes around the world serving midlife and older women (International Federation on Aging, the American Association of Retired Persons, in co-operation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs);

(u) 1992: global conference on "Changing status and emerging roles of the elderly in the twenty-first century", at Pune near Bombay, India, from 14 to 18 September (International Federation on Aging, in co-operation with the Government of India and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs);

(v) 1992: international symposium on aging in developing and developed countries (Center on Aging, San Diego State University, United States of America, in co-operation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs);

(w) 1992: symposium on participation strategies; conference of "1992 committees" (FIAPA);

(x) 1992: meeting of collaborating network (INIA, Malta);

(y) 1992: non-governmental organization (NGO) forum on aging in New York coinciding with the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly (New York NGO Committee on Aging, in co-operation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs);

(z) 1992: the plenary of the General Assembly will commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Aging (substantive secretariat: the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs).

4. A number of activities have commenced or are being considered for the 1990s, including:

(a) Development of a United Nations system-wide medium-term plan on aging (the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, together with specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations);

(b) Further strengthening the activities of INIA, Malta, and efforts to establish other similar institutions, as stipulated by Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/50 (the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs);

(c) Award of testimonials from the Secretary-General of the United Nations to individuals and organizations for outstanding support of the United Nations programme on aging;

(d) Integration of issues relating to the elderly into the preparations for and observances of the International Year of the Family, 1994 (the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs);

(e) Global fund-raising initiatives, by the United Nations Trust Fund for Aging (the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs); the United

Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM); HelpAge International; and the Banyan Foundation, upon its establishment in 1991;

(f) "Aging's Top Ten Challenges in the 1990s" for serial publication in the Bulletin on Aging (the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, in co-operation with contributors);

(g) Plan of Action by the Aging (co-ordinated by the New York NGO Committee on Aging, in co-operation with seniors and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs);

(h) East-West consultations on aging (co-ordinated by the NGO Committee on Aging at Vienna, in co-operation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs);

(i) Poster competition on aging (the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, in co-operation with major non-governmental organizations);

(j) Publication of global directory of organizations concerned with aging, possibly based on recently issued directories (the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, American Association for International Aging, and the United Kingdom Centre for Policy on Aging/Longman);

(k) Issue of self-help manuals, training materials, publications (HelpAge International);

(l) Seniors' Week at United Nations Headquarters, New York (Public Services Section, Department of Public Information);

(m) Global consultations on rights and responsibilities of the aging (International Federation on Aging (IFA));

(n) Proposed international games for the aging (major non-governmental organizations);

(o) Proposed world conference on aging (United Nations in co-operation with major international organizations);

(p) Aging trends (Centre for International Research, Bureau of the Census, United States Department of Commerce);

(q) New horizons and seniors independence programmes (Seniors secretariat, health and welfare, Canada);

(r) "Coming of Age" campaign, launched on 24 April 1990 (Age Concern England);

(s) Research projects on legislation and aging (Exchange on Aging, Law and Ethics (EAGLE), and Austrian Law and Policy Institute in co-operation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs);

/...

(t) Global applied research project entitled "Developmental implications of demographic change: global population aging (the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, supported by UNFPA);

(u) Research programme on aging (determinants of healthy aging, epidemiology, immunology, nutrition and osteoporosis, age-related dementias (World Health Organization (WHO));

(v) Small area planning (WHO, Regional Office for Europe);

(w) Development of research on the aged for policy-making purposes (Japanese Organization for International Co-operation in Family Planning (JOICFP), supported by UNFPA);

(x) Population aging, old age security and social and economic policies (International Labour Organisation (ILO), supported by UNFPA);

(y) World survey of training needs for aging (International Institute on Aging, Malta (INIA);

(z) Studies on: the impact of changing life expectancy and retirement patterns on pension costs; the demographic, economic and financial consequences of raising the age of retirement; and institutions for rehabilitation of the aging (International Social Security Association);

(aa) A wide range of regional activities on aging are planned by the European Community and the Council of Europe as well as Eurolink Age, the European Federation for the Welfare of the Elderly, the European Association for Directors of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly, and the proposed new European Federation for Older Students at Universities. Details of these and other regional and national activities will be included in the updated calendar of events on aging to be issued in 1992.

APPENDIX

Project report sheet - for contributing to the
global calendar of events on aging, 1991-1992

Project title:

Starting date:

Duration:

Location:

Executing agency:

Sponsoring agency:

Co-operating agency:

Funding sources:

Purpose/beneficiaries:

Project description:

Expected results:

Please return completed project sheet to:

Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office
at Vienna (Aging Unit), P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria (FAX: 232156)

ANNEX II

United Nations entities concerned with aging

1. Several hundred governmental and non-governmental organizations are concerned with aging. Too numerous to list here, they are included in recently published global directories (by the Centre for Policy on Ageing/Longman, the American Association for International Aging, and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna, which is also working on a directory of national mechanisms on aging). A list of the United Nations entities concerned with aging is given here in illustration of the scope of the system's response.

2. Most of the United Nations entities listed below are already engaged in projects on aging and the remaining few have been in the past, or have a potential contribution to make in the 1990s. In this context, organizations established in co-operation with the United Nations, or working closely with it, may be mentioned, such as: the International Institute on Aging in Malta, the International Network on Aging, and the non-governmental committees on aging in New York and Vienna.

United Nations

Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna, lead agency for the Action Programme, which will support it from the related perspectives of its activities on: youth, disabled persons, women, family, crime prevention and criminal justice, developmental social welfare, social policy, and development co-operation.

Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat:

(a) Population Division

(b) Statistical Office

Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat

Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

United Nations Development Programme

United Nations Population Fund

United Nations Postal Administration

United Nations Centre for Human Rights

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

United Nations University

United Nations Children's Fund

United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

United Nations Volunteers

Economic Commission for Europe

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Economic Commission for Africa

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Specialized agencies of the United Nations system

International Labour Organisation

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

World Health Organization

International Monetary Fund

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

International Fund for Agricultural Development

United Nations Industrial Development Organization
